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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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TAGS: PROP, SOPN, ET, US
SUBJ: ANTI-US PRESS CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

REF: ADDIS ABABA 1593

SUMMARY: SECOND PAGE OF APRIL 9 GOVT-OWNED AND CONTROLLED ETHIOPIAN HERALD CONTAINED TWO ARTICLES AND ONE EDITORIAL HIGHLY CRITICAL OF US IN NOW FAMILIAR RHETORIC. ONE ARTICLE WAS PARTICULARLY VICIOUS ATTACK AGAINST US AS HISTORICLE BETRAYER OF ETHIOPIA, IDEOLOGICAL FOE OF CURRENT REGIME AND FRESH REMINDER OF "INHERENT CORRUPTION OF THE WEST." FULSOME ETHIOPIAN MEDIA CAMPAIGN AGAINST US INEVITABLY CONTRIBUTES TO GROWING PERCEPTION AMONG EVEN MODERATE ETHIOPIANS THAT US IS PURSUING ANTI-ETHIOPIAN POLICY.
END DUMMARY.

1. APRIL 9 EDITORIAL BEGINS BY ACCUSING "AMERICAN GOVERNMENT" OF ACTING AS CHAMPION OF ANTI-ETHIOPIAN VILIFICATION CAMPAIGN WITHIN IMPERIALIST CAMP. EDITORIAL DECRIES MASS MEDIA OF US, UK, FRG, AND FRANCE FOR FALSE CONCERN ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN ETHIOPIA. EXPANDING ON DIRG SECGEN'S APRIL 6 SPEECH, COLUMN ALLEGES ANTI-ETHIOPIAN CAMPAIGN IS SUSTAINED AND SYSTEMATIC EF-
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FORT, PAINSTAKINGLY EXECUTED BY US GOVT TO POUR DIRT ON GLORIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS OF ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION. EDITORIAL THEN ATTACKS US HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD IN SOUTHERN AFRICA; WHERE US SUPPORT HAS ENABLED RACIST REGIMES TO SURVIVE SO LONG; IN VIET NAM WHERE AMERICA'S WAR ATROCITIES ARE NOT YET FORGOTTEN BY WORLD; AND IN US ITSELF WHERE BLACK PEOPLE

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SUFFER MISERY OF SECOND-CLASS CITIZENSHIP. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT US IS LEADING IMPERIALIST COUNTRIES IN RE-ARMING SIAD BARRE CLIQUE TO SERVE HIS EXPANSIONIST AMBITIONS.

2. COMPANION ARTICLE CHARGES THAT 24 HOUR/DAY ANTI-ETHIOPIA PROPAGANDA "WAS CHARTED OUT BY CIA AND APPROVED BY CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO DIVERT ATTENTION OF OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF AMERICAN POPULATION FROM GROWING INTERNAL SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CRISIS." SECOND ARTICLE, SIGNED BY VICIOUSLY ANTI-US WRITER YACOB WOLDE-MARIAM, LAYS RESPONSIBILITY ON USA FOR DAMAGE CAUSED TO LIFE AND PROPERTY IN ETHIOPIA BY "WASHINGTON'S PROXY ARMY OF REGULAR SOMALI TROOPS." YACOB WRITES THAT ROUTING FORCES OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM IN OGADEN IS "ONE OF MOST HISTORIC EVENTS OF DECADE--LIKE DEFEAT OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM IN VIET NAM." DRAWING ON HISTORICAL EVENTS SUCH AS KHEDIVE OF EGYPT'S AGGRESSION AGAINST ETHIOPIA IN 1875-76 COMMANDED BY AMERICAN OFFICERS, US CONNIVANCE WITH UK AND FRANCE TO DENY ETHIOPIA ARMS IN 1935 AND PERMIT ITALIAN INVASION AND SUSPENSION OF ARMS DELIVERIES SHORTLY BEFORE SOMALIA'S INVASION IN 1977, YACOB ATTEMPTS TO MAKE CASE THAT US IS TRADITIONAL BETRAYER OF ETHIOPIA. HE CONCLUDES WITH QUOTE FOR W. E. B. DU BOIS, ADVISING AFRICANS
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AGAINST ALIGNMENT WITH "CORRUPT WEST," ADDING THAT DESTRUCTION IN OGADEN WAS LIVING MONUMENT TO CRIMES AGAINST MANKIND BY AMERICAN IMPERIALISM.

3. REMARKS BY ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS IN ANOTHER CONTEXT INDICATED MEDIA COMPAIGN LIKELY TO CONTINUE UNABATED UNLESS PERSONS AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF ETHIOPIAN GOVT (PMGSE) PUT STOP TO IT. THESE OFFICIALS CLAIM IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FOR MODERATES WITHIN GOVT TO ARGUE FOR TEMPERATE APPROACH TO US-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS AS "EVIDENCE" GROWS IN THEIR PERCEPTIONS THAT US TAKING MORE HOSTILE POSTURE TOWARD PMGSE IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND VOTES WITHIN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.
MATHERON

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